

Message Text

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R 100230Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9704

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 0400

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (RYAN, LEO)

SUBJECT: CODEL RYAN

REF: (A) STATE 276828; (B) MANILA A-427

SUMMARY. VISIT OF CONGRESSMAN LEO RYAN TO PHILIPPINES FROM DEC. 22 TO DEC 26 MET CONGRESSMAN'S PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES OF FIRST-HAND ASSESSMENT OF RECENT PHILIPPINE DEVELOPMENTS, EXPLORATION OF ISSUES ARISING FROM LAUREL-LANGLEY TERMINATION AND REVIEW OF U.S. POLICIES TOWARD AND PROGRAMS IN PHILIPPINES. CONGRESSMAN'S SCHEDULE INCLUDED CALL ON TWO PRIVATE FIRMS, EMBASSY AND AID BRIEFINGS, MEETING WITH LEADERS OF AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, TOUR OF NEARBY AID-SUPPORTED PROJECTS AND CHRISTMAS DINNER WITH AMBASSADOR.

1. CONGRESSMAN RYAN IS PERSONAL FRIEND OF R.V. GRADY OF WILBER ELLIS CO. OF SAN FRANCISCO PARENT FIRM OF CONNELL BROS. PHILIPPINES. GRADY HAD OWNERSHIP PROBLEMS PRESENTED TO CONNELL BROS (PHIL) BY EXPIRATION OF LAUREL-LANGLEY. AT MEETINGS WITH CONNELL PHIL HEAD BURGOS, ATKINS KROLL PRESIDENT MCCASLAND AND LEADERS OF AMERICAN CHAMBER, CONGRESSMAN (WHO WAS NOT PREVIOUSLY AWARE OF SALE OF SIXTY PERCENT INTEREST IN CONNELL BROS (PHIL) TO AYALA CORPORATION REPORTED REF B) WAS EXPOSED TO CONCERNS OF U.S.

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BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN THE PHILIPPINES WITH INVESTMENT CLIMATE

AND LAUREL-LANGLY ISSUES. ON RETAIL TRADE AND LAND ISSUES
CONGRESSMAN LENT LITTLE ENCOURAGEMENT TO BUSINESS COMMUNITY,
NOTING TOLERATION BY U.S. OF NATIONALIZATION OF PETROLEUM
ENTERPRISES IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES. CONGRESSMAN ALSO SAID U.S.
LABOR WAS RAPIDLY TURNING PROTECTIONIST AND URGED BUSINESS
LEADERS TO MAKE EFFORTS TO TELL THEIR STORY TO THE U.S.
PUBLIC.

2. DURING COURSE OF REVIEW OF PHILIPPINE DOMESTIC POLITICAL
SITUATION CONGRESSMAN OBSERVED THAT POLITICAL REPRESSION IN
PHILIPPINES DID NOT YET APPEAR SEVERE ENOUGH TO GENERATE
BROAD CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN AND CREDITED PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT
MARCOS WITH GOOD HANDLING OF HIS U.S. PUBLIC RELATIONS.
CONGRESSMAN PREDICTED INTEREST OF HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE IN ASIAN PACIFIC REGION WOULD RISE WITH ANTICI-
PATED HEAVIER REPRESENTATION FROM WESTERN STATES ON COM-
MITTEE DURING NEXT SESSION OF CONGRESS.

3. CONGRESSMAN EXHIBITED CONSIDERABLE SKEPTICISM ABOUT
PURPOSE SERVED BY PRESENT LEVEL OF U.S. FINANCIAL AND
MILITARY COMMITMENTS IN INDO-CHINA AND SOUTH KOREA. HIS
POSITION APPEARED TO BE BASED MORE ON QUESTIONING OF NATIONAL
INTEREST IN U.S. INVOLVEMENT THAN ON ANY NARROW CONCERN
WITH THE NATURE OF THE GOVERNMENTS.

4. CONGRESSMAN'S DAY OUTSIDE MANILA INCLUDED MEETINGS
WITH FAMILY PLANNING AND NUTRITION PERSONNEL AND TOUR OF
PROVINCIAL EQUIPMENT POOL AND FLOOD REHABILITATION PROJECTS.
CONGRESSMAN SEVERAL TIMES VOICED CONVICTION THAT LOWERED
BIRTH RATE IN THE PHILIPPINES AND IN OTHER COUNTRIES WITH
RAPID POPULATION GROWTH WAS NECESSARY TO ENABLE DEVELOPMENT
AND PREVENT FUTURE FOOD SHORTAGES.
SULLIVAN

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